

Uplifting Adolescents Project

U.A.P.

Quarterly Report
January - March 2000

Development Associates, Inc.
Contract No. 532-C-00-96-00234-00

**UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT
QUARTERLY REPORT
January 1 - March 31, 2000**

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***Uplifting Adolescents Project
Jamaica
Quarterly Progress Report
January to March 2000***

BACKGROUND

In June 1996, Development Associates, Inc. was awarded a contract with a level of effort of 194 person months of long and short term technical assistance to strengthen local NGOs to deliver a multi-modal package of services to adolescents between the ages of 10-18 years to improve their social skills to become more productive and responsible citizens, and to strengthen the Youth Unit of the Ministry of Education.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The three major outputs as detailed in Section C, Work Statement of the contract articulate:

1. **Strengthening the NGOs:** The first step in implementing this project is to provide technical assistance and training to the NGOs to enable them: (a) to improve their managerial capabilities; (b) to improve or expand their program capabilities to deliver either the minimum or recommended package of services to adolescents; and (c) to apply to the contractor for grants to provide services to adolescents.
2. **Programs for Adolescents Designed & Delivered:** The heart of the project is the delivery of multi-modal packages of services to approximately 11,000 at-risk adolescents. The NGOs accepted for the project can deliver these packages of services with funding from sub-grants from the contractor. About 14,000 youth years of services (minimum and recommended) are to be provided to about 9,300 at-risk adolescents (since some adolescents receive more than one year of services, their number is less than the number of youth years). For special populations (pregnant girls, learning disabilities, etc.) who require specialized services, about 2,500 youth years of services are to be provided to about 1,700 adolescents.
3. **Youth Unit Strengthened:** The Youth Unit in the Ministry of Local Government, Youth & Community Development is to play an important part in the implementation of this project and be a central point on behalf of the government for continuing these activities after the project ends. As a newly formed office within the ministry, it needs some inputs to become strong enough to fulfill its role.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The planned activities for the report period covering January - June 2000 include:

1. Continue the Sub-Grant award and management process with those funded NGOs delivering services to the adolescent population by working with USAID to assist with a program evaluation of the sub-grantee and to provide information for an "add-on" activity by December 31, 2000. Operations Research proposals will be completed at different stages but will closely coincide with the overall termination of the contract which is December 31, 2000. Therefore, program phase-down and phase-out will be smooth with few transitional problems for USAID and NGO sub-grantees.
2. The Training Coordinator will continue the implementation of a Revised Training Plan for the January -June 2000 period. The training schedule has been adjusted to accommodate USAID plans of phasing over the program to a local NGO umbrella organization upon termination of this contract. Aside from workshops, the activities will include bursaries for short courses, regional training, observational travel, and onsite training for specific functions.
3. Clarification of the new functions of the Youth Unit, Ministry of Local Government as assumed under the Social Policy Unit. Finalization of the work under the terms of reference of the Social Policy Analyst; and the conclusion of Joint Coordinating Committee activities.
4. Continue the implementation of procedures for the effective management of the UAP contract funds, and demonstrate smooth implementation of these procedures. Implementation of effective cost control procedures including financial reviews of sub-grantee accounts, and demonstrate initiatives over and above those requirements stipulated in the contract agreement.

PERFORMANCE

Sub-Grant Award & Management

The main activities under this performance criterion are the completion of sub-grantee financial assessments; finalization of a UAP Literacy Teaching Standard and an assessment of literacy teaching sites; development of a methodology to rank sub-grantee programs; and the completion of two Operations Research grants, and dissemination of research results.

1. Management of UAP Sub-Grants

(A) Financial Review of Sub-Grantees:

Financial Assessments No. 5 for the six Batch II sub-grantees were scheduled for February. Five of the assessments were completed by month's end, with the sixth (WSUC), which was postponed from

February 25, completed on March 2. All assessments generally showed improvement in or maintenance of a high quality of accounting for project funds. There were a few instances where procurement files were not up to date with the required Bid Analysis memoranda, and some cases of expenditure incurred being questioned as not reasonable. These were discussed with the NGOs and clarified by the next month.

A further follow-up assessment of the Sam Sharpe Teachers College was conducted on March 2 (also postponed from February 25). By and large, the SSTC has now completed the recommended actions consequent to the November 1999 Financial Assessment. Some additional data were provided to the UAP by March 9, after which, the data being satisfactory, UAP resumed disbursements to this organization. Reports were issued to the six Batch II sub-grantees for which Financial Assessments were conducted in February and March.

(B) Finalization of UAP Literacy Teaching Standard:

The UAP Literacy Standard was discussed with Mr. Riley of JAMAL, and at a meeting held on January 7, it was agreed that there would be no further changes, and that the December 1999 standard should be accepted as follows:

- Testing of all out of school participants to establish literacy levels;
- Teachers should have minimum qualifications as follows:
 - i Trained Teacher's Certificate from a recognized Teachers Training College; or
CXC/GCE passes in at least three subjects, including those being taught; or
Jamaica Secondary School Certificate (SSC) in five subjects and one year's experience as a
JAMAL volunteer teacher; and
 - ii Completion of two of three UAP-JAMAL Literacy Training Courses.
- Instructional materials should be equal to JAMAL material at Levels I to IV, and are presented in formats appropriate to reading comprehension levels, and capable of motivating out-of-school youth to learn.
- Instructional methodologies in use should be equivalent to those in use at JAMAL, and should include use of innovations to promote and reinforce learning such as computers, music and drama, and materials developed during the UAP/JAMAL workshops, including flash cards; and
- A student : teacher ratio in classes not higher than 20:1.

(C) Assessment of NGO Literacy Teaching Sites:

Administrative and technical support were provided to the Assessment of NGO Teaching sites meeting the UAP Literacy Teaching Standard. A schedule of visits was prepared and arranged with the respective Sub-Grantees, and the contractor, Mr. Riley started visits to the Sub-Grantees on January 17.

Sites visited during January included:

| | |
|--|--|
| Jamaica Red Cross, Yallahs | YMCA, Hope Road |
| Jamaica Association for the Deaf, Papine | YWCA, Spanish Town |
| Children First, Spanish Town | Rural Family Support Org, May Pen |
| Women's Center of Jamaica, Mandeville | Kingston Restoration Company, Kingston |
| Mel Nathan Institute, Hannah Town | |

The remaining 8 NGO sites were visited by JAMAL in February to complete the field work.

On each of the site visits, Mr. Riley was accompanied by a UAP Key Staff person who simultaneously conducted a monitoring visit. These visits have re-confirmed the dire need for continued assistance to the youth who are currently benefitting from the UAP. It is clear that the literacy and personal development programs at these locations are desperately needed by these adolescents if they are to make a success of their lives. The learning environment at all sites was particularly difficult, and credit must be given to the teachers for being able to achieve the positives which they have with the adolescents in these classes.

Mr. Riley completed a draft of his report, which was discussed with all key staff on February 17. The report was subsequently revised and submitted in final to the UAP by February 29. This activity was conducted to verify the level of NGO programs meeting the UAP Literacy Teaching Standard. We are pleased to report that 53% of the organizations surveyed do meet the standard which is much higher than the 25% we calculated previously. We are also pleased to note that JAMAL found that most, if not all, of the sites are doing excellent work with the adolescents under harsh conditions. The next phase will be to arrange for literacy instructors to receive further training at JAMAL's regional centers. This process will foster a close linkage between JAMAL and the NGOs through the supervision and onsite follow-up monitoring provided by JAMAL. The completed report was edited for length, but not substance, and issued to all UAP Sub-Grantees in March.

(D) Development of a Methodology to Evaluate & Rank Sub-Grantee Programs:

This activity was not proposed for action until April, after the conclusion of the external evaluation by USAID. However, a draft checklist was prepared for internal UAP discussion in January. Consequent to the USAID Director's request for a meeting to discuss a framework within which the project could objectively rank the current Sub-Grantees for priority support in a post-UAP activity, it was decided to advance the Key Staff review of the draft which had been prepared. A meeting of UAP Key Staff on January 20 led to the revision of the draft, and this revision was shared with USAID at a meeting on January 24. However, at that meeting, USAID did not specify its focus which would affect the criteria for NGO selection. It is not expected that the checklist will be finalized until possibly May 2000, after the conclusion of the external evaluation, at which time it will be applied to the NGOs, and the results provided to USAID for its use in designing the follow-on or post-UAP activity.

As a result of discussions with the USAID Evaluation team for the UAP, the format which had been agreed to in January was used to make a preliminary assessment of the UAP Sub-Grantees, for inclusion in a follow-on activity which would concentrate on the out-of-school population. The key staff participated in this joint assessment, and a summary table of all the scores was developed and shared with the USAID Evaluation team. The Evaluation Team subsequently reported their recommendation that the in-school program should not be discontinued. Thus, it is likely that further revision will be necessary to the format, and the relative weights assigned to each factor re-assessed.

(E) Completion of Operations Research Grants & Dissemination of Results:

LAR&D completed all field work on its operations research project with Children First, Spanish Town and the Western Society for the Upliftment of Children, Montego Bay. An initial draft report was submitted to Development Associates in late December and reviewed in early January. After a meeting

with Mr. Rankine and Mr. Stanley, it was decided that the report needed major restructuring prior to final acceptance and dissemination. The final revised report was received from the consultants, L A R & D in February.

Hope Enterprises has been delayed with the first component of data input and data analysis. However, a preliminary report on the first set of data collected is most impressive. The second part of the project is to meet with stakeholders to design an implementation program based on the results of the data. Unexpected staff turnover in FamPlan further complicated implementation since two key staff persons are leaving or have left the NGO. On February 22, a meeting was held with Hope Enterprises CEO, Mrs. Maxine Wedderburn, to discuss a revised schedule of the project in light of staff changes at FamPlan, and the projected termination date of activities. The results of this study could have an impact not only on NGO planning but more important in the Ministry of Education to identify and work on school, community, parental, and student based assets required to combat drop-out and student retention rates. PACD for this activity has been extended to September 30, 2000.

Ashe is in the final stages of its research activities with the second application of a tested instrument being applied to both control and experimental groups. It was anticipated that a final report would be delivered by the end of March but Ashe staff were delayed in data collection activities. A PIL extending the termination date to July 31, 2000 was executed.

Meetings were held with the Kingston YMCA's General Secretary, and Professor Errol Miller, the consultant on the Operations Research Project. Issues relating to reporting were clarified, and the current status of the project reviewed. It was identified that a budget revision may be required at some time in the next few months, and this issue was tabled for pursuit at a later date. Preliminary reports from this project look very promising especially for formal educational institutions.

(F) Operations Research Workshops to Share Results:

The NGO Coordinator edited and produced an abridged version of the report received from L A R & D Enterprises Ltd. Copies of the abridged document were sent to the invited participants to the workshop held on March 29. The workshop was attended by nine representatives from seven NGOs participating in the UAP. Also in attendance, by invitation, were nine representatives of key government bodies and agencies having an influential role in alleviating the plight of street children. This workshop provided an opportunity for the consultants to share their findings with a select group of participants from the NGO and government sectors, and to determine preliminary follow up actions which both sectors may take jointly and individually. A workshop report has been prepared and will be transmitted to all stakeholders.

Preparations are underway with Ashe for the presentation of their operations research finding and results. The tentative date for this event is set for June 14, 2000.

2. Training Program

(A) Literacy Teaching Standard:

Activities for this component will be programmed based on the results of JAMAL's research with NGOs. JAMAL, dependent upon government funding, will not be able to schedule training sessions until their final budget is approved, hopefully in April. JAMAL will inform the UAP when training schedules can be programmed. The UAP, in turn, will coordinate dates, and locations of the training programs with NGO participants.

(B) Conduct Final Observation Tour:

Responses were received from FAVA/CA indicating the progress which had been made since January on this activity. Communication continued with several UAP responses being prepared and faxed back. The dates for the travel have been set for May 7-20, 2000. Agendas have been set, budgets prepared and negotiated, hotel reservations placed, transportation acquired, and payment terms agreed to. All the documents were put together in a memo and sent to Loretta Johnston, for DA/Arlington action. A memorandum was prepared and issued to the seven NGOs still to participate in the Observation Tour. The memo requested their nominees by March 15. We received the names of the nominees, and have forwarded them to DA Arlington and to FAVA/CA. Clarifications on the desired content of the visit, and elaborations on the proposed participants, were provided over the phone to Mark Fontaine, FAVA/CA volunteer, who is coordinating the visit in Miami. A contract or purchase order from DA to FAVA/CA is expected to be issued shortly to tie down all arrangements. In the meantime, candidates will be meeting with USAID in April to initiate completion of the required paperwork.

(C) Development Training for NGO Staff:

Computer Training:

A review of 1999 Computer Training courses was completed, yielding the following information:

- Thirty persons have completed training in thirty four courses
- Seven persons have registered but have not completed courses
- Six persons need to register for courses in order to complete program packages
- Twenty one persons have indicated interest but have not yet registered for courses
- Three persons who registered for courses are no longer employed to the NGOs

UAP has concluded all programming with both the NGO staff and the computer training providers in Kingston and in Montego Bay regarding scheduling of courses for 2000. A service provider, Tele-Electronics, has been identified and contracted to offer training for selected WSUC staff. A reconciliation of courses taken and funds provided to the training institutes has been carried out by the UAP.

Workshops & Forums:

Development Associates Inc. implemented a workshop on *Theatrics in Teaching* at the Philip Sherlock Centre for Creative Arts, the University of the West Indies (Mona Campus), between February 29 and March 2, 2000, for staff of NGOs participating in the Uplifting Adolescents Project (UAP).

This "Motivating Youth Through Drama - Theatrics in Teaching " Workshop II was designed as a follow-up to one held June 2-3,1998, which had dealt primarily with script-writing and staging techniques. The objectives of the 2 1/2 days of training given in the Part II workshop were to enable the participating NGO teachers to:

- develop skills in the use of theatrics as a creative learning methodology; and
- develop creative visual and written material to support the delivery of subject matter.

Topics covered were:

- Visual stimulation: photographs, drawings, videos, slides
- Recognition exercises of vocabulary stimulated by visual images
- Transition from the visual and oral to the written
- Techniques for use of new vocabulary - both oral and written
- Creating familiar contexts for exploration of problem areas
- Verbal and non-verbal communication
- Use of role-play and improvisation
- Storytelling
 - (a) The 'found' story
 - (b) creating the story
- Evaluation techniques.

Thirteen (13) NGOs sent participants and attendance on the 3 days was:

Day 1 - 31; Day 2 - 32; and Day 3 - 31.

The Summary Report which will follow will serve as a permanent record of the workshop's proceedings. The copy being sent to each Head of the sub-grantee organizations should be used as a training manual, to ensure that all staff teaching UAP classes are familiar with, and make appropriate use of, the techniques outlined.

The *Mentoring & Peer Counseling* Workshop is confirmed to take place on May 2, 3, and 4, 2000 at the Medallion Hall Hotel in Kingston. Mrs. Betty Ann Blaine, Executive Director, YOU, has been invited to facilitate the Mentoring component of the workshop which will seek to enable NGOs to establish programs in their organizations. The Peer Counseling component will be conducted by consultant Mrs. Hope McNish, and designed to train workshop participants to organize and run peer counseling programs with youth.

Tracer Study Training for Interviewers will be conducted on April 6, 2000 by consultant Mrs. Pansy Hamilton. Eight NGOs which will participate in the Final Tracer Study have been invited to send trainees to the workshop to learn the art and techniques of interviewing and completing a questionnaire. The designed questionnaire will then be pretested and modifications made if necessary.

3. Strengthening the Youth Unit, MLGYCD

(A) Social Policy Analyst Final Report:

The final report of the Social Policy Analyst, Mrs. Seneca Lewis-Garraway, is due to be presented on April 15, 2000 at the end of her contract with Development Associates. The report will be quite extensive and will include excerpts of research documents completed during the year, an inventory of documents for the resource center, and a completed youth database program including electronic copies for USAID and the GOJ.

(B) Procurement and Technical Assistance:

During the period, it was learned that Ms Gloria Nelson retired from the Youth Division. At the same time, the UAP was informed that Mrs. McDowell either retired or was assigned to HEART/NTA. In a telephone conversation Mrs. Jennings advised that she had been transferred to a separate department within the Ministry. These persons were the key staff within the Youth Division and the ones who received training and technical assistance as well as key members of the Joint Coordinating Committee. Upon making these facts known to USAID, we reiterated the need for a meeting between USAID and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry.

Prior to such a meeting between USAID and the Permanent Secretary, UAP views on the situation were requested by the CTO. USAID was reminded of the efforts and resource contributed under the contract and that one of the major outputs (Strengthening the Youth Unit, MEYC) would be affected to the point of making past efforts practically void. DA was not invited to the meeting but was verbally advised of the results by the CTO as follows:

- Youth is a major priority for the GOJ.
- The Prime Minister is convening a meeting of GOJ-sponsored programs involving youth.
- All commodities donated under the UAP contract will remain with the Ministry.
- A final meeting of the Joint Coordinating Committee will be convened to close-out.
- No further UAP resources will be provided to the Ministry since the contract is coming to a close.

A written notification to Development Associates of these findings was promised by the CTO.

(C) Joint Coordinating Committee

In January, the UAP completed its Quarterly Progress Report, Minutes of the last JCC meeting, and the Site Visit Report. All documentation was sent with a cover letter to the membership but no meeting was convened in the absence of the Chairperson and other Youth Unit staff. Members were advised of the departure of three key Youth Unit staff. It was determined with USAID that a final luncheon meeting of the JCC will be called to thank members for their participation, obtain feedback on effectiveness of the JCC, and to close-out this component of the project.

4. Contract Administration

(A) Response to USAID Directives:

- Met with Mari Minowa and Atsuko Toi, World Bank, to offer input to their exploratory work on at-risk youth in Jamaica. Present at USAID were Sheila Lutjens and Joan Davis.
- Participated at a meeting with Mosina Jordan, Sheila Lutjens, Dick Loudis, Joan Davis, and UAP staff to discuss NGO rankings for possible future add-on funding.
- Prepared for USAID a matrix of disbursement projections for sub-grantees to assess the potential of no-cost extensions.
- Accompanied CTO to the Ambassador's office to attend a meeting with YMCA representatives from White Plains, N.Y.
- Met with the Controllers Office to clarify supporting documentation for award fee expenses claimed under a November voucher.
- A summary Report on the UAP for 1999 was prepared and submitted to the Planning Institute of Jamaica, and copied to USAID/Jamaica.
- A paper on NGO Capacity Building in the UAP was prepared and presented to the Partners' Conference of the USAID Adolescent Reproductive Health Activity, held on February 8.
- UAP staff conducts bimonthly briefing sessions with USAID Project Managers on project progress.
- Final Tracer Study planning is well advanced with the approved scope of work, selected consultant and programmed activities starting in early April.
- Assisted Mr. Alan Ross to obtain information from WSUC participant to develop a success story for USAID/Jamaica.
- Project Officer site visits were made to the JRC Yallahs and May Pen, and to the WCJF Mandeville locations during March. Joan Davis of USAID/Jamaica accompanied the NGO Coordinator on the visits.

(B) Support to the Planning & Implementation of Final UAP Evaluation:

USAID requested alternative budget scenarios for continuing funding to the Sub-Grantees over the August to December 2000 period. This was prepared with three scenarios: funding for 14, 10 and 8 sub-grantees, and submitted to AID for review. At the January 24 meeting with the USAID Director, UAP Key Staff discussed the thinking on these scenarios. Also present at that meeting were the Directors of the Offices of General Development, and Program and Policy Development, and the USAID Project Specialist for the UAP.

During February, DA was informed that Mr. Tom Judy, Aguirre International, would lead the four person team to conduct the UAP evaluation and design of an add-on project activity beginning in early March. Other team members include Joan Jennings, Dr. Alfred Sangster, and Design Specialist, Virginia Lambert. On February 3, USAID requested and DA provided electronic copies of all UAP Quarterly Reports (Contractor Performance) 1997-1999; Quarterly Reports (NGO Performance) 1997-1999; and hard copies

of 1996 Quarterly Reports. Correspondence and telephone communications were initiated between Aguirre and DA to arrange for the further transfer of documents and logistic coordination. Tom Judy visited the DA/Arlington office to receive a briefing on the project by Loretta Johnston and to obtain further documentation. Several agendas were forwarded to the UAP, and input offered. NGOs were called to ascertain availability and a meeting with Dr. Sangster convened with UAP to coordinate logistics. A listing of all sub-grantees, contact persons, addresses, and telephone numbers were given to Dr. Sangster. Due to minor problems within USAID, the evaluation team had to postpone its arrival in Kingston by one week. Confusing the matter somewhat was a mid-week holiday and mid-term school vacations during the week the team was to arrive.

Between March 7-20, 2000, UAP key staff met with the Evaluation team on a weekly basis to impart as much information as needed to make their task effective and objective. Practically one full day was devoted to discussions for the design of an "add-on" program and its possible structure and content. The UAP also participated at the final Evaluation Team debriefing of USAID Mission staff which lasted half day.

5. Other Activities

- To obtain data regarding program impact, one on one contacts were conducted with the Sub-Grantees to review and obtain full understanding of the new Statistical Appendix to the Quarterly Reports.
- Attended a meeting sponsored by the World Bank to discuss an evaluation report of the JSIF and its relationship with NGOs. Some UAP sub-grantees were represented at the meeting.
- Onsite technical assistance for PTS data input, web site follow-up, and on-line services was offered by the MIS Specialist, Craig Campbell to WSUC, SSTC, Children First, KRC, Red Cross, YWCA, Women's Center, and Ashe.
- Six offers of technical assistance have been forthcoming from the UAP web site. Three from Europe and three from the U.S. Exchanges of correspondence have been conducted by Key Staff. A separate offer for classroom to classroom contact between England and Jamaica is in final stages of completion.
- UAP Football League started friendly matches on March 18 to initiate pre-league activities. Soccer shoes and balls for each team will be supplied under the DA contract.
- Attended a meeting with Anna Webb, World Bank Consultant, to discuss the options open to JSIF to work with the local NGO community.

SECTION B. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Contract Expenditure

The table below shows contract expenditure data, including Disbursements to Sub-Grantees, by the UAP up to March 2000. A total of approximately US\$5.83 million has been expended to date, with approximately US\$2.64 million (or 45.3 % of cumulative expenditure : up from 43.4 % last quarter) of that amount being disbursed to the sub-grantees.

Table 1
Expenditure Report by Activity Budget Categories

| <i>Activity Description</i> | <i>CLIN No.</i> | <i>Budget</i> | <i>Expenditure Prior Periods</i> | <i>Expenditure This Period</i> | <i>To Date Contract Expenditure</i> | <i>Remaining Budget</i> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Project Management | 001 | \$1,197,656 | \$1,029,699 | \$40,072 | \$1,069,771 | \$127,885 |
| Operations Research | 002 | \$461,537 | \$310,858 | \$23,275 | \$334,133 | \$127,404 |
| Adolescent Programs | 003 | \$1,741,761 | \$1,281,132 | \$86,188 | \$1,367,320 | \$374,441 |
| Assisting MEYC | 004 | \$344,973 | \$199,241 | \$22,302 | \$221,543 | \$123,430 |
| Award Fee Pool | 005 | \$252,636 | \$172,222 | \$22,136 | \$194,358 | \$58,278 |
| Sub-Grants | 006 | \$3,065,000 | \$2,405,030 | \$239,759 | \$2,644,789 | \$420,211 |
| TOTALS | | \$7,063,563 | \$5,398,182 | \$433,732 | \$5,831,914 | \$1,231,649 |

Obligations to Contract

To date, obligations to the contract amount to US\$6,555,807. These obligations are distributed and compared to expenditure as follows:

| <i>CLIN # & Description</i> | <i>Contract Amount</i> | <i>Obligated To Date</i> | <i>Expenditure To Date</i> | <i>Unexpended Obligation</i> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| CLINs 1-4: Institutional Contract | \$3,745,927 | \$3,299,227 | \$2,992,767 | \$306,460 |
| CLIN 5: Award Fee Pool | \$252,636 | \$191,580 | \$194,358 | -\$2,778 |
| CLIN 6: NGO Sub-Grants | \$3,065,000 | \$3,065,000 | \$2,644,789 | \$420,211 |
| TOTALS | \$7,063,563 | \$6,555,807 | \$5,831,914 | \$723,893 |

SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY REPORTS
UAP SUB-GRANTEES
December 1999 to February 2000

General

As the project moves further into its final year of operation, and the grants to within six months of their terminal dates, there has been a consolidation of the program in many areas. The literacy and remedial education activities continued to take center stage, and it is now more evident in many sub-grantees' programs that the UAP methodology is an integrated, holistic one, with the reproductive health, pre-vocational and personal and family development activities being very much supportive and reinforcing of the literacy program, thus molding the adolescent into one who is more prepared to fulfil his role in developing Jamaica. An assessment of literacy teaching conducted at NGO teaching sites found that 53% of these met the minimum desired standard. The areas for improvement have largely to do with the insufficiency of alternative teaching methodologies, such as music, dance, computers etc, and the student : teacher ratios. Additional teacher training is also contemplated to reinforce the JAMAL methods, as against the pedagogic methods common in schools.

Recruitment Progress: Regular and Special Populations Grants

As shown in the table below, recruitment to date has exceeded all targets considerably.

Comparison of Sub-Grantee Recruitment Targets and Accomplishments

| Sub-Grantee | Recruitment Target | Accomplishment Feb. 29, 2000 | Percent Accomplished |
|--|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Batch I (33/38 months implementation)</u> | | | |
| FamPlan Jamaica | 780 | 971 | 124% |
| Jamaica Red Cross | 1,600 | 1,519 | 95% |
| Women's Centre of Jamaica | 2,300 | 2,585 | 112% |
| Kingston Restoration Company | 970 | 763 | 79% |
| YWCA of Jamaica | 925 | 1,067 | 115% |
| Rural Family Support Organization | 930 | 1,389 | 149% |
| BATCH I TOTALS | 7,505 | 8,294 | 111% |
| <u>Batch II (30/35 months implementation)</u> | | | |
| Kingston YMCA | 546 | 658 | 121% |
| Western Society/Upliftment of Children | 1,060 | 1,451 | 137% |
| St. Patrick's Foundation | 1,600 | 1,654 | 103% |
| Youth Opportunities Unlimited | 1,130 | 1,528 | 135% |
| Mel Nathan Institute | 1,205 | 1,692 | 140% |
| Ashe Caribbean Performing Arts Fdn. | 1,200 | 1,051 | 88% |
| BATCH II TOTALS | 6,741 | 8,034 | 119% |
| <u>Batch III (21/26 months implementation)</u> | | | |
| Jamaica Association for the Deaf | 200 | 231 | 116% |
| Sam Sharpe Teachers' College | 540 | 691 | 128% |
| BATCH III TOTALS | 740 | 922 | 125% |
| Project Totals | 14,986 | 17,250 | 115% |

Despite the marked increase which has been noted from the last report (17,250 current total versus 15,100 reported previously) only slight increases in recruitment were actually reported this period. The increase of 2,150 is almost entirely due to further clarification of the reports from previous periods, given the introduction of a new statistical reporting format. Additional discussions will be conducted

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with the Sub-Grantees to clarify the data further, and this may result in the totals changing either upwards or downwards.

Based on these latest reports, Batch I sub-grantees have registered 8,294 adolescents (111% of their revised targets). Batch II and Batch III sub-grantees have respectively registered 8,034 (119% of the revised target), and 922 (125%). It is apposite to contrast these data with the drop-out data, which is now available. The latest reports show that some 2,298 adolescents dropped out of the in-school program over the three years of the program to date, and 2,330 from the out-of-school program. Most of these drop-outs (a combined 2,414) have dropped out in this final year of the project. Sub-Grantees report that many who had not graduated at the end of the 1998-99 grant year simply failed to return for the subsequent year's program. Great efforts are being expended to encourage these delinquents to rejoin the program.

To date, therefore, only three sub-grantees have not reached their revised target recruitment levels. The eleven others have exceeded their targets. Current registration is 7,071 adolescents, including 5,343 regular population and 1,728 special population. As the Sub-Grantees are able to convince the delinquent registrants to rejoin the programs, the current registration data will increase.

The 17,250 adolescents reported registration to February 29, 2000 represents 157% of the UAP target of 11,000 over the life of project (up from 130% last quarter). Of the regular at-risk adolescents project target of 9,300, the 14 sub-grantees have registered 13,878 (149% - up from 136% last quarter). Of the 1,700 target for the special populations, 3,372 adolescents (198% - up from 142% previous quarter) have been registered. Below is a comparison of the recruitment accomplishments compared to sub-grantees' targets and the UAP targets, broken out by regular and special populations.

| | <u>Sub-Grantees' Targets</u> | | <u>UAP Overall Targets</u> | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|------------|
| | Regular | Spec. Pop. | Regular | Spec. Pop. |
| Target | 12,113 | 2,873 | 9,300 | 1,700 |
| Feb 29 Achievement | 13,878 | 3,372 | 13,878 | 3,372 |
| Percent Achieved | 115% | 117% | 149% | 198% |

Financial Disbursements

At the end of March 2000, financial disbursements to the Sub-Grantees amounted to approximately US\$2.65 million, or approximately J\$99 million. For this quarter, disbursements were approximately US\$ 240,000, or J\$ 10.4 million. Disbursements to the sub-grantees (US\$2.65 million) by DA represent approximately 92.8% of the advances (US\$2.85 million) received by DA from USAID for sub-grants. The sub-grant fund has been fully obligated at \$3.065 million, and the un-disbursed amount from this fund is now US\$415,000. While some Sub-Grantees have reported that their authorized grant amounts may be insufficient to effectively complete their programs, DA has advised that supplementation to the SG Fund is unlikely, thus the authorized grant levels will remain.

Sub-Grant Status Summaries

Summary program reports of the sub-grantees for the September to November 1999 period are attached, along with publicity excerpts and other interesting sub-grantee material.

**STATUS SUMMARIES
OF
UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT
SUB-GRANTEES' QUARTERLY REPORTS**

for the quarter
December 1999 to February 2000

and

PUBLICITY EXCERPTS

April 26, 2000

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Jamaica Family Planning Association

Project Title:

Young Adolescents Empowerment Project

Brief History of Organization

Jamaica Family Planning Association (FAMPLAN), established in 1957, has for over forty years been the NGO in Jamaica providing a high standard of family planning services, at first island-wide and since 1967 in the parishes of St. Ann, Trelawny, St. Mary and Kingston. FAMPLAN is the Jamaican affiliate of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the leading family planning organization in the world. One of FAMPLAN's purposes is "to educate the Jamaican public in methods of voluntary family planning and child spacing compatible with the particular religious and moral beliefs of different individuals".

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$4,735,000

Amount Disbursed to 3/31/2000: Ja \$3,980,711

Period of Sub-Grant:

June 1, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

4 deprived communities and one primary school in St. Ann's Bay (St. Ann), and two all age schools and two communities in St. Mary.

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Peggy Scott, Chief Executive Officer
2. Flo George, Program Coordinator

UAP Project Officer

Sam Dowding, NGO Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to improve the quality of life for young male and female adolescents in the parishes of St. Ann and St. Mary by providing them with the education and services which will enable them to become healthy and productive members of their communities.

Status Update:

FamPlan is currently serving 706 adolescents (481 in-school and 225 out-of-school). The in-school program is delivered at 5 schools, 3 in St. Ann and 2 in Annotto Bay in St. Mary. There has been an increase of 115 clients added to the register in the last quarter.

FamPlan held a two-day workshop for Community Leaders and Peer Educators in January, and covered the topics of Community Development, Sexual Abuse, Sex and Sexuality (including the reproductive systems, and sexually transmitted infections), Pre & Post Natal Care, Domestic Violence, and Better Parenting. The workshop was attended by participants from Mansfield Heights Mount Edgecombe, Steer Town and Seville Heights in St. Ann, and from Retreat Content in St. Mary. In addition to FamPlan staff, resource persons were also drawn from Social Development Commission, Police Rape Investigating Unit, and Jamaica AIDS Support (JAS).

The Homework program in Annotto Bay has been started, with 18 Grade 6 children participating 2 evenings per week. Classes are held at the JAS office, and a HEART trainee teacher provides additional support to FamPlan staff. A parenting class is now being conducted at the Annotto Bay Health Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings conducted by FamPlan staff. Those attending these sessions have included 13 recent teenage mothers. FamPlan hopes to obtain assistance from the business community in St. Mary for a community skills training program in Annotto Bay. HEART is expected to provide staff for this venture.

Sixteen peer educators have completed their training in St. Mary. Nineteen other youth have commenced training at the Gospel Chapel Educational Centre. In addition, a presentation on AIDS during Safe Sex Week attracted 39 Grade 9 students from Annotto Bay All Age.

School sessions continue to progress satisfactorily in general. However, at Exchange All Age, the shift sessions have affected the program. The afternoon shift is particularly affected, as some adolescents come late to school, and others feel stigmatized that only "dunce" children attend the FamPlan sessions. It is disappointing to note the number of non-readers in Grade 9 at this school.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Jamaica Red Cross

Project Title:

Adolescents and Family Outreach

Brief History of Organization

Established in 1948 as a branch of the British Red Cross, and in 1964 as the National Organization, the JRC has as its mission "to prevent and alleviate human suffering, protect life and health, and ensure respect for the human being". It has branches in each parish of Jamaica, and primarily operates programs in Disaster and Emergency Management, First Aid, HIV/AIDS prevention, Health promotion, Youth Training and Development and Meals on Wheels. It has reached over 15,000 youth over the 1993-1996 period with its HIV/STD and other Youth Education/Counseling programs.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja 7,820,000

Amount Disbursed to 3/31/2000: Ja\$6,666,084

Period of Sub-Grant:

June 1, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Central Village (St. Catherine); Kingston, Maypen (Clarendon), Montego Bay (St. James - 1997-98 only), and Yallahs (St. Thomas)

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Yvonne Clarke, Director-General
2. Lois Hue, National Youth Director

UAP Project Officer

Sam Dowling, NGO Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to improve the sexual behavior pattern of youth by empowering them through the provision of literacy, numeracy, and marketable skills, and enabling them to become more responsible and productive citizens.

Status Update:

Numeracy and literacy continued to take center-stage this period, although other activities such as home management, art & craft, computer-aided learning, and apiculture continued to be important. Home management included clothing & textiles, and food & nutrition. One center embarked on making pillows, which it is hoped may become an income generating activity for the adolescents.

The St. Catherine center reactivated computer-aided literacy. Non-reading students were able to advance much faster in word recognition, compared to the usual classroom methods. Apiculture continued to be set back by the disease which has affected the industry locally. Most affected is the St. Catherine center.

Registration at the St. Thomas center considerably increased, and had to be curtailed so that the numbers could be kept within manageable limits. It is clear here that the need for UAP-type intervention is dire, especially among the children who are over 18.

In the reproductive health program, students now display less reluctance to discuss sexuality in the presence of their elders. This was most readily observed during Safer Sex week in February. Peer education training has accordingly been conducted in a more relaxed atmosphere with the adolescents.

A staff development seminar under the theme "Never Give In" was held in February for staff from all centers. Staff asserted, in sharing their experiences, that communication was critical for enhancing the learning experience with adolescents. Some suggested that teachers should utilize an "Open Forum" at which the adolescents would be free to address anything of concern to them.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation

Project Title:

Youth Activity Program

Brief History of Organization

Started in 1978 as the Program for Adolescent Mothers in Kingston, the organization has grown to a national one with centers in 7 parishes, and an additional 14 outreach stations nation-wide. In 1991, the WCJF was incorporated as a private company. Several evaluations have validated the effectiveness of the internationally heralded "Women's Centre" model for rehabilitating pregnant teens. The WCJF implements several programs targeted at adolescents, including Walk-in Counseling and referral; Counseling and referral for young baby fathers and parents of the teen mother; and coaching towards CXC exams for eligible teen mothers.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja 13,700,000

Amount Disbursed
to 3/31/2000: Ja\$12,401,508

Period of Sub-Grant:

June 1, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Port Antonio and Buff Bay (Portland), Mandeville (Manchester), St. Ann's Bay (St. Ann), Montego Bay (St. James), and Savanna-la-Mar (Westmoreland).

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Mrs. Pamela Mc Neil, National Director
2. Mrs. Jacqueline Anderson-Robinson, YAP Coordinator

UAP Project Officer

Sam Dowding, NGO Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to improve the sexual behavior pattern of youth by empowering them through the provision of literacy, numeracy, and marketable skills, and enabling them to become more responsible and productive citizens.

Status Update:

Centers were able to increase their enrolment this quarter from 579 last period to 740. Much of the increase has been due to the home visits which have resulted in some of the former drop-out from the program, resuming their participation. Absences have been blamed on financial difficulties which families are experiencing.

The mentoring program is now operating at all five centers. Mentors have been selected from the communities, and are engaged in professional groups and skill areas such as carpentry, cabinet-making, upholstery, teaching, Police, cosmetology and religion. Mentor training has included discussions on subjects such as sexually transmitted diseases, road safety, decision making and conflict resolution. The mentoring program is expected to have a significant impact on reducing indiscipline among the adolescents.

Human sexuality was a main topic addressed this period, including condom demonstrations and exposure to other contraceptive methods. Through individual counseling, it has been established that some participants are sexually active. They have been counseled and provided contraceptive methods. Technical and vocational training has continued with items being made including hats, towels, woolen toys and art work.

Drama, music and role play have been used to illustrate and reinforce learning especially in the literacy area.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Kingston Restoration Company

Project Title:

Uplifting Adolescents in Inner Kingston and Jonestown

Brief History of Organization

KRC was established in 1990 primarily to assist in projects for the repairing or restoration of dilapidated, derelict or damaged buildings in Kingston, and to provide infrastructure amenities, parks and recreation areas to improve the overall appearance of the capital city. As part of this mission, KRC established a "Neighborhood Initiatives Program" which targeted social conditions in the inner-city communities in Kingston. The Youth Educational Support Systems (YESS) project, homework and scholarship programs have resulted from this initiative. KRC has also been instrumental in creating jobs in the manufacturing sector.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja\$ 6,800,000

Amount Disbursed to 3/31/2000: Ja\$6,342,143

Period of Sub-Grant:

June 1, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Higholborn Street and Jonestown, (Kingston)

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Morin Seymour, Chief Executive Officer
2. Sheron Lawson, Project Manager

UAP Project Officer

Frank Valva, Chief of Party

Project Goal or Purpose

to develop a group of new leaders with the skills necessary for spear-heading the regeneration of their communities and the development of a new downtown.

Status Update:

Some 23 of the students in the Necessary Educational Training were tested psychologically by Mico Care this quarter. The report was not yet available at the end of the period. Additional teachers in leather-craft, needle work and dance and drama have been recruited this quarter for this program.

Students from the YESS program performed several drama pieces at the University of Technology's Black History Month celebrations. With the assistance of Air Jamaica, the environmental lab has been re-opened. Skills training is also progressing satisfactorily, especially in needle craft and leather-work.

Given poor attendance by some students at the Central Kingston center, a "buddy" system has been instituted to assist. One hundred and one students have been assisted with scholarship (school fees) assistance through the program this quarter. A mentoring program has also been started, with several matches made between mentors and adolescents.

Family Life Ministries and the Lion's Club of Downtown Kingston have been assisting with resources, and counseling services. Disruptive students are separated and lectured to by policemen from the Gold Street Station and the Family Court.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

YWCA National Council

Project Title:

"Y" Adolescent Development

Brief History of Organization

Founded in Jamaica in 1923, the YWCA is an affiliate of the World YWCA. Its mission is "to promote the well being of women and girls and unite them in a worldwide fellowship which seeks fullness of life through physical, mental, social, spiritual development and through service to others and the nation". The YWCA has branches in Kingston, Montego Bay, Spanish Town, Christiana (Manchester) and Darliston (Westmoreland), in addition to Y-Teens clubs in over 24 schools. The YWCA operates programs such as the Early School-leavers' Institutes, a Basic School, After-School Care and Literacy and Continuing Education evening classes.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja 7,050,000

Amount Disbursed to 3/31/2000: Ja\$6,458,404

Period of Sub-Grant:

June 1, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Kingston, Spanish Town & Watson Grove (St. Catherine) and Montego Bay (St. James)

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Mildred Dean, General Secretary
2. Violet Jones, Spanish Town YWCA
3. Ariadne Collier, Kingston YWCA

UAP Project Officer

Sandra Cooper, Training Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to improve the social and job skills of at-risk adolescents in Kingston, Spanish Town and Montego Bay on a sustainable basis so that they may become more responsible and productive citizens.

Status Update:

The three YWCA centers currently serve 506 students. A greater commitment to learn and achieve has been noted among the students, an attitude which is likely attributable to the dedication, creativity and concern of the teachers. The teacher complement includes several volunteers, including sixth form students from prominent girls' and boys' high schools in Kingston and Spanish Town. Places are being sought in the formal school system for those students who have improved to the minimum required standards.

Based on the responses of the students, the Montego Bay center placed some emphasis this quarter on reproductive health, including human sexuality. Culinary skills, including food preparation and food decoration have also been emphasized at this location.

At Kingston center, much progress has been achieved in flower arranging, catering and baking, and sewing skills. The adolescents at the three reading levels were exposed to personal development classes in presentation of self, public image, appropriate dress, choosing friends and study groups.

Undisciplined behavior continued to be a challenge at this location. It has been observed that learning and discipline improved when computer-aided instruction was introduced. The implication, that more computers need to be deployed in the learning environment, will be pursued with vigor in future project plans.

The Spanish Town location has improved its accommodation, primarily due to the assistance of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, which financed the reconstruction of a building on the premises. More parents meetings, and Saturday seminars are planned for the next quarter.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Rural Family Support Organization

Project Title:

Clarendon Youth Development Program

Brief History of Organization

Established in 1986 as the May Pen Women's Centre, and subsequently as the Teenage Mothers' Project, the evolution of this organization culminated in October 1996 with the Rural Family Support Organization being launched. Significant and continuing support has been received from the Bernard van Leer Foundation, and the UWI Centre for Early Childhood Education. In keeping with its mission to "undertake child care training programs for families and care givers, and to provide guidance and counseling to male and female adolescents in Jamaica's rural communities", the program has addressed the needs of the adolescent mother, their families and babies. Concerted efforts to include adolescent males, resulted in the establishment of the Male Adolescent Program in 1995.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$960,000
Amount Disbursed
to 3/31/2000: Ja\$8,183,681

Period of Sub-Grant:
June 1, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity
Denbigh, May Pen, and five schools in Clarendon.

Sub-Grantee Contacts
1. Joyce Jarrett, Director
2. Utealia Burrell, Counselor

UAP Project Officer
Sandra Cooper, Training Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose
to improve the self-esteem of adolescents by helping them to see themselves as worthwhile individuals, capable of setting goals and working towards reaching such goals; and to support the achievement of economic independence by adolescents through providing vocational and technical training, literacy and remedial work and counseling."

Status Update:

The students who are continuing from the 1998-99 program year are being prepared for the Grade Nine Achievement Test. 17 males and 4 females have been entered for this exam through one of the RFSO feeder schools. 585 students, including 494 in-school and 91 out of school, are currently attending sessions.

Two parents meetings were held in the quarter, and those attending in December approved a field trip for the adolescents to visit the People's Museum of Craft and Technology, and Anglican Cathedral in Spanish Town. This being the first time many were leaving Clarendon, the trip proved to be most informative. The opportunity was taken to point out other landmarks such as the Innswood Sugar Estate, Experimental Agricultural Station, Caymanas Race Track and the District Prison. The children demonstrated much discipline during the entire trip. The second parents meeting in March viewed the film "Puberty" and discussed "Adolescence".

The students in the Male Adolescent Program continue to show highest aggregate scores on the Rosenberg Self Esteem scale, compared to the In-school and female programs. The male students' literacy scores also show greater improvement than the female students' thereby proving the correlation between self-esteem and learning performance.

Late-coming, absenteeism and occasional indiscipline continue to occur. A motivational system whereby "Stars" and "Points" are awarded seems to be working, to improve punctuality, attendance and behavior.

The students' work in pre-vocational skills has been exemplary. The males are working on belts, key rings and bags in leather work, and making cushioned stools, picture frames, toothbrush holders and plant stands in woodwork. These are selling very well, as the quality of work is excellent. The females are working on hand embroidered cushions, sun visors and house dresses. Students participated in the Clarendon 4H Achievement Exhibition.

Certain individual improvements stand out. One female who entered in September with no literacy skills whatever now is doing simple addition and subtraction using the abacus, her writing has improved, and her personality and confidence transformed. Similar progress has been noted with one male at Hazard Primary School.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Kingston YMCA

Project Title:

Kingston Youth Development Programme (YDP)

Brief History of Organization

The YMCA in Jamaica was founded in 1920, with separate branches all over Jamaica. The Kingston YMCA has a mission "to promote the welfare of young people through spiritual, social, intellectual and physical activities, geared to development of spirit, mind and body." Kingston YMCA is the largest and oldest of the YMCA branches in Jamaica, and has been in existence since 1940. It has a similarly long history in community and youth development, with several notable projects such as the "Star" boys, Street Corner Boys, and Car Wash programs in the 70s. Main features of these programs to assist those special populations have been basic education, mental, physical and spiritual development, and skills training.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja 6,160,000
Amount Disbursed to 3/31/2000: Ja\$4,933,289

Period of Sub-Grant:
September 15, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity
Hope Road and Rosedale Avenue, Kingston

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Sarah Newland Martin, General Secretary
2. Anthony Brodber, Coordinator

UAP Project Officer

Sandra Cooper, Training Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to promote the achievement, by special population adolescents, of their potential to contribute positively to the social and economic development of Jamaica.

Status Update:

Additional applicants continued to seek admission to the YMCA programs especially at Hope Road and Rosedale. Only ten new entrants were accepted this period due to space limitations. Volunteers continue to be the backbone of the remedial program, with up to 22 assisting weekly.

Five students from Hope Road sat the Grade Nine Achievement Test in March and 25 more are being prepared to sit the National Assessment Test in June. Students participated in the UWI Careers Expo and the PACT Expo in February.

Rosedale continues to enjoy commercial success with its catering program, thereby earning not only income for the center, but very valuable experience for the students. Basic computer skills are being introduced to the students at this location. With the assistance of fund-raising by the St. Andrew Rotary Club, refurbishment of the vocational building at Rosedale is contemplated, as well as some new kitchen equipment.

The 21 students at Caymanas were exposed to the other YMCA facilities to promote their identification with the program. It is hoped that most of this group will be able to pass the Grade 9 test in June and gain entry to a HEART program. YMCA also hopes to provide a skills training program at this location to complement the academic training.

The program is cooperating with the National Initiative for Street Children to provide a residential and academic setting for unsettled adolescents. Much volunteer time at the centers is utilized in counseling the troubled adolescents.

Computer classes for the teachers ended in December, but they will continue to practice to improve their skills. The internet is to be connected to the computers at both Hope Road and Rosedale.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Western Society for the Upliftment of Children

Project Title:

High Risk Children - Education Project

Brief History of Organization

The Western Society for the Upliftment of Children and Children First, its co-Grantee in this project, are new NGOs established in April 1997 upon the reformation of the Save the Children (UK) program in Jamaica. Both organizations formerly operated as branches of SCF(UK) in Montego Bay and Spanish Town respectively. The two programs have in recent years successfully implemented projects targeted at high-risk children, financed by the World Food Program, under the Skills 2000 Poverty Alleviation program. The programs have enjoyed significant success in returning at risk adolescents to school and motivating them to remain there.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$9,480,000
Amount Disbursed
to 3/31/2000: Ja\$8,184,581

Period of Sub-Grant:

September 15, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Montego Bay: WSUC Office and 4 schools
Spanish Town: Children First HQ and 2 schools

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Glenda Drummond, Coordinator, WSUC
2. Claudette Pious, Coordinator, CF

UAP Project Officer

Frank Valva, Chief of Party

Project Goal or Purpose

to enable street/working children and at-risk adolescents to have access to and benefit from a comprehensive program that will assist them to realize their potential as more responsible and productive citizens of Jamaica.

Status Update:

Thirty one of the Special Population adolescents left the program this period: 6 to regular schools, 7 to a HEART program, 16 in skills training/apprenticeships, and 1 each migrated and died. A total of 741 students, including 317 in the special population have attended the WSUC/CF program this quarter.

December test results saw several WSUC students being promoted from their previous grades. It was as a result of these tests that the students who returned to regular schools were able to gain admission. Another round of examinations was administered in March. Personal Development training concentrated on conflict resolution this period, and with the addition of a new Guidance Counselor, compliments of the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, this aspect of the program is developing, with both classes and individual counseling now available.

A careers guidance week in March exposed the students to a variety of professionals, including a plumber, teacher, social worker, nurse, cosmetologist, and a teacher who had lost his sight as a youth, but who had persevered and accomplished his degree with first class honors from UWI. These sessions, including with parents, were very inspiring.

CF students in the photography program have also been exposed to videography. UNICEF assistance for this program, as well as for the cosmetology and barbering programs ceases in April, and other support sources are being sought. More than 50 students sought entry to the program in January, but only 5 could be accepted due to space.

Parent Training and Staff Development were conducted this period. The UAP training program is proving very useful to these sessions. Minister Portia Simpson, and Ambassador Marjorie Taylor visited the program, and a donation of \$40,000 was made by the Minister. 10 students have received basic training in TV/VCR repairs from a volunteer and the performing group did presentations at D&G's product launch and at 3D's Health Fair, among others.

Space continues to be the main problem facing both programs, and efforts are being made with Members of Parliament and other influential persons to try to resolve this main problem sometime in the near future.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

St. Patrick's Foundation

Project Title:

Educational & Training Programme Enhancement and Development

Brief History of Organization

St. Patrick's Foundation is a non-profit organization serving the Western Kingston inner city communities of Olympic Gardens, Tower Hill, Seaview Gardens and Riverton City. The Foundation was established in 1983, and currently boasts 5 resource centers and a home for the abandoned elderly. Its mission includes "to alleviate human suffering and to better the quality of life with emphasis on the human person". In 1995, it placed students in over 650 jobs, and had a direct benefit on the lives of at least 2,000 inner city residents. The foundation was honored in 1995 for outstanding National Service.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$7,280,000
Amount Disbursed
to 3/31/2000: Ja \$6,281,125

Period of Sub-Grant:
September 15, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Olympic Gardens, Riverton City, Seaview Gardens,
and Calalloo Mews (all in Kingston)

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Roxline Spence, Chief Executive Officer

UAP Project Officer

Frank Valva, Chief of Party

Project Goal or Purpose

to empower at-risk adolescents through educational and skills training programs, with tools that will allow them to transcend the constraints of their socio-economic environments in order to become more productive and responsible citizens.

Status Update:

The program is now limited to the St. Margaret's Center, which now has 261 students (98 G and 163 B) attending full time. Seven new students were admitted. The remedial classes have been re-organized to better accommodate the learning requirements for those who will sit the Technical Entrance and Grade Nine Achievement Tests in June.

The Mico Diagnostic Test was applied to 198 students (76% of the total population) and only 11.1% were graded at Grade 6. A whopping 40.4% were graded at Primer or Pre-Primer, with 25.3% at Grades 1 and 2, and the remaining 23.2% at Grades 3 to 5. These scores exemplify the enormity of the task ahead.

SPF teachers attended training in Floral Arranging and Drapery making, as well as the UAP Theatrics in Teaching workshop. These training are to be used in upgrading the skills and achievements of the students. The computer center is being made more user friendly, and additional software have been procured to enhance the literacy classes.

The Breakfast and Lunch programs continue to be mainly responsible for improved attendance and punctuality at the Center.

The Activity Day, recently instituted on Tuesdays, has seen the students selecting to participate in areas of interest to them, including floral arranging, Home Economics, Computer applications, Art & Craft, Wood Craft and Drama. Plans are also afoot to re-start the Out-of-School Remedial Reading program, for two hours each afternoon.

A significant proportion of the students are expected to graduate in June, and a recruitment drive will be put in place to register at least one hundred and fifty more students for the next school year.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:
Project Title:

Youth Opportunities Unlimited
Advancing the Opportunities of In-School Youth

Brief History of Organization

Established in 1991, YOU is a non-profit organization promoting mentoring as its primary means of opening the world of opportunity to at-risk youth. YOU aims to assist high school students to achieve their potential in school by providing career guidance, emotional support, positive role models and counseling, and to ensure that through the mentoring relationship every adolescent is provided with the emotional support in order to build self-confidence and self esteem. YOU enjoys significant private sector support, and also earns about 60% of its operating revenue from its Christmas card program.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$6,650,000
Amount Disbursed to 3/31/2000: Ja \$5,697,300

Period of Sub-Grant:
September 15, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Twelve schools in Kingston and Portmore: e.g. St. Hugh's, Merl Grove, Kingston Secondary, Kingston College, Excelsior and Clan Carthy.

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Betty Ann Blaine, Executive Director

UAP Project Officer

Sam Dowding, NGO Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to motivate at-risk adolescents who participate in the project to complete their post-primary education, and to embark on a path to becoming responsible and productive citizens.

Status Update:

YOU continues to receive requests from several organizations in civil society for expanding the mentoring program nationally. The frequency of these requests is leading to YOU's establishment of a national mentoring consultancy program. During the period, 3 new mentees were recruited, and 42 additional mentors. Three workshops were held for mentees and two for mentors.

The innovation in group mentoring is progressing well, with marked improvement being seen in mentees' behavior and communication, both with peers and teachers. 26 sessions were held this period with the participating mentees at Kingston Comprehensive. Remediation continues to be the greatest need for the group involved here. The latest batch of Peer Counselors at Excelsior High graduated in March, and have joined the first group which continues to impress with its work. YOU is convinced that Peer Counseling must now remain a vital part of its training and interventions with youth.

The parenting education program in four high schools progressed, with the development of a more intensive small group program. YOU has produced and will shortly distribute its laminated, pocket-sized booklet on "Questions Parents Must Ask Teachers". The Homework program at Merl Grove High School averages 60 students participating each day, and attracts not only Merl Grove students, but also from Excelsior and Calabar High. Of note is that the Calabar students are male, and they attend the sessions at the all-girl Merl Grove voluntarily. Parents, teachers, and the students continually articulate their appreciation for the Homework program.

So far, 18 mentees have completed the Career Development Assessment, and this has allowed YOU to recognize the limited knowledge of available careers which adolescents have. 5 students have applied for entry to a HEART program, one is in a fashion designing apprenticeship, and one other is working on a modeling portfolio.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Mel Nathan Institute for Development and Social Research

Project Title:

Partnership for Mature Personhood

Brief History of Organization

MNI is a human and community development agency of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. Established in 1978, it has a history of assisting young people in depressed inner city communities. The mission of the organization includes "to promote the advancement of deprived communities in both urban and rural areas, to provide educational opportunities, including basic, preparatory and vocational facilities, and to facilitate human development, as an integral part of community development." MNI operates several programs, some of which are commercial, including catering, auto repair, woodworking, and garment manufacturing. The social programs include the Hannah Town community development program, a Preparatory School, and a Community College.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$8,800,000

Amount Disbursed to 3/31/2000: Ja\$8,208,347

Period of Sub-Grant:

September 15, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Hannah Town, North Street and Pretoria Road (all in Kingston) and Seaford/Carron Hall in St. Mary.

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Jane Dodman, Associate Executive Director
2. Aldin Bellinfante, Manager, Consulting Services
3. Michelle Bennett, Coordinator

UAP Project Officer

Sandra Cooper, Training Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to equip adolescents for mature personhood through a holistic program targeting inner-city and rural at-risk youth.

Status Update:

Music and drama continue to be integral to the program at Hannah Town. The art program suffered a blow when the Peace Corps volunteer left over the Christmas holidays. Involvement of the adolescents in sports, the boys in football, and the girls in netball, is seen as vital for improving their self-esteem and participation in academic work. Several students from all locations were prepared for the Grade Six Achievement Test in March. The boys in the Hannah Town and North Street locations are looking forward to the start of the UAP Football League.

Extra efforts have been made to improve attendance through home visits and follow-up by staff members. These activities seem to be bearing fruit in the Pretoria Road community.

Participation in Computer education has been enthusiastic by the students. The Chetolah Park children had a field trip in February to the Bank of Jamaica. This was a first for many of the students. The program is being implemented at Kingston Comprehensive High School (KCHS) due to escalating violence in the Chetolah Park area, and this has benefitted the children, since the adolescents at KCHS are more consistent in attendance and this is showing in their achievements. Students are preparing to participate in the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission Festival of Arts competitions, with entries in the speech, drama and music categories.

The special population students at Edith Dalton-James Community College have focused on practical work this period, and will be going on work experience in April for about 6 weeks. They were also exposed to human development classes, including inter-personal relationships, health and sexuality discussions.

Several meetings have been held with parents and Senior citizens in the Seaford -Carron Hall area. The Christmas Social at this location, postponed from December, was held in January.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:
Project Title:

Ashe Caribbean Performing Arts Foundation
SOLID YOUTHS - Through the Performing Arts

Brief History of Organization

Ashe is a non-profit performing arts company and school which was started in 1992 with 80 members. Ashe's mission is "to foster development of youth in Jamaica and the Caribbean region through the Performing Arts by developing disciplined, creative individuals in achieving excellence thereby preserving the rich cultural heritage of the region in nation-building". It has won 7 international acting awards, and 4 Jamaica Music awards for excellence in the performing arts. Currently, Ashe has over three hundred members on roll, in two groups: the Ashe Ensemble (a professional company) with 35 members, and the Ashe Academy with over 275 members. Ashe serves mainly inner-city youth in Kingston.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$7,730,000
Amount Disbursed to 3/31/2000: Ja\$7,016,855

Period of Sub-Grant:
September 15, 1997 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Ashe Academy (Nannyville) and Hanover Street, Kingston

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Joseph Robinson, Director

UAP Project Officer

Frank Valva

Project Goal or Purpose

to create, through the use of the performing arts, confident, disciplined Jamaican adolescents who have the capacity to contribute positively to the society and economy.

Status Update:

Ashe has developed and is using the "Rhythmic Phonic" method to teach literacy. This method teaches use of African chants to sing sounds of words. From there the students learn to make word sounds and then sentences. This method is being used with the 45 students in Ashe's football program, who are drawn from Nannyville and the surrounding communities. Members of the Ashe Academy who have reading problems also are being trained, using this method.

Students' self-esteem, awareness, knowledge and behavior have all shown improvement over this period. Ashe is in the process of producing audio and video-tapes to teach the Rhythmic Phonic method to other interested parties.

Ashe's annual season will run from May 10 to June 30, and this year is a musical titled "Lift Up Jamaica". This musical will reinforce the principle that to succeed one must employ discipline, hard work, persistence, love of culture and respect for each other.

Of the many students who have graduated from Ashe's program, approximately 30% of these return to the formal school system, while the remainder seek employment. Four graduates succeeded this last quarter in obtaining employment at Trelawny Beach Hotel, and at Hedonism II as Entertainment Coordinators. The high level of training in the performing arts, and the discipline acquired at Ashe, put these persons in high demand.

Ashe is actively seeking follow-on support from various sources for continuing the program after the UAP assistance terminates. The marketing program for its CDS, audio and video tapes and other educational material has been put into higher gear, and proposals have been made to Futures Group, FHI, Green Fund and the Ministry of Education.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Jamaica Association for the Deaf

Project Title:

Youth Theatre Workshops

Brief History of Organization

The Jamaica Association for the Deaf was founded in 1938, and is the oldest voluntary agency of its kind in the Caribbean. It currently operates three rural and five urban schools to provide early stimulation, vocational and academic education to the deaf. Clinical services such as hearing assessment, educational placement of deaf children in schools, dispensing of hearing aids are also provided, in addition to in-service training for teachers in the JAD schools, and social services such as adult deaf clubs and interpreting services in courts of law.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$4,570,000
Amount Disbursed to 3/31/2000: Ja\$3,682,039

Period of Sub-Grant:
July 1, 1998 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity
Kingston

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Iris Soutar, Executive Officer
2. Shirley Reid

UAP Project Officer
Sandra Cooper, Training Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

The creation, development, execution evaluation and sustainment of a permanent Youth Theatre Workshop for Deaf Youth in Jamaica

Status Update:

Plans went into full swing in December for the first major production of the Youth Theatre Workshop. The production, titled "Street Signs" was successfully staged to critical acclaim in March. The participants' enthusiasm sky-rocketed during the rehearsal period, and contact times almost doubled this period for those who were directly involved on stage.

A full dress rehearsal was held in December for friends and family of participants, and this provided a good opportunity for many, who had never been on stage before, to overcome their stage fright. The production had themes of sexuality, education and expressive language skills inter-woven.

Preparation and rehearsals did not dim the delivery of literacy and remedial education training, or in personal and family development. The Deaf Culture Facilitators-Counselors visited the JAD's primary schools and High School this quarter and provided some 72 hours of interaction with students at these schools. Unfortunately, the proposed training in reproductive health, and parent education had to be postponed due to the intensity of the rehearsals. However, a parent/guardian support group has been formed with current participation of 10 persons, consequent to two meetings in February. Much cooperation has been forthcoming from the parents/guardians and other friends, with in-kind contributions and other forms of support.

The expected replacement of the Peace Corps Volunteer, Lyla Brown, who was instrumental in the design and start up of this project, opted to go to another location. JAD will continue to pursue this issue with the Peace Corps Jamaica Administration.

UPLIFTING ADOLESCENTS PROJECT

Sub-Grantee:

Sam Sharpe Teachers' College

Project Title:

Sam Sharpe Centre for Child and Adolescent Development

Brief History of Organization

The Sam Sharpe Teacher's College is one of only two major tertiary educational institutions in Western Jamaica. Started in 1975, it prepares teachers for work in the primary and secondary schools. SSTC will be associated with the Montego Bay Community Home for Girls, which was founded in 1978, in the implementation of this project.

Sub-Grant Amount: Ja \$4,600,000

Amount Disbursed
to 3/31/2000: Ja\$3,894,571

Period of Sub-Grant:

June 1, 1998 to July 31, 2000

Locations of Activity

Granville, St. James and adjoining communities

Sub-Grantee Contacts

1. Cecile Walden, Principal
2. Alma Williams, Coordinator

UAP Project Officer

Sam Dowding, NGO Coordinator

Project Goal or Purpose

to enable at-risk adolescents with special needs to become literate and skilled, and thus employable, positive individuals and leaders within their families and communities.

Status Update:

The many and varied activities of the project continued this quarter. Classes were held in Reading, Guidance and Counseling, Home Management, Art & Craft, Social Studies, Food & Nutrition, Mathematics, English, Science, Information Technology and of course, Music and Marching Band. Students continue to show commendable progress, with many recently meriting promotion, consequent to the tests administered.

Guidance and Counseling sessions have covered topics such as Sexually Transmitted Infections, Personal Hygiene, Importance of Loving Others, and Peace and Love in Schools. The participants are usually given the opportunity in these sessions to express themselves freely, and to demonstrate how they can transfer knowledge gained in one academic class to another and to life in general.. Home management has included sessions on meal planning and preparation, use of the metric system and caring for the home.

Students in the Art & Craft classes are at the stage where they can independently make garments and soft toys for the market. The leather craft class was put on hold in February due to inadequacy of space to hold these classes. Other activities of the Arts & Craft classes have included tie & dye, and printing. Civics, responsibilities of citizens and National Heroes have been covered in the Social Studies classes. Once weekly Information Technology classes have attracted a regular attendance of between 18 and 20 students. Despite the limited facilities, the classes, which are divided by ability and aptitude, have proceeded well. 4 older students will be targeted for the CXC technical proficiency exam in June 2001.

The Marching Band continues to gain plaudits for its performances. The band director has added rap sessions and games, jazz instrumentation, drilling, and music theory to the activities. 4 members will write the Royal Schools of Music exams in November.

Sabina, with love



STEPHEN VASCIANNIE

"Just look at us now", but forget about what happened "then". Never mind that, Odolphus reflects, let us look to the present. So, he sets forth to purchase tickets for the Sabina Test, well before the well-known "Waggonists" are stimulated by the remarkable victory achieved by Adams and his colleagues in Trinidad. Odolphus finds, however, that technology has mastered the administrators of ticket sales at Sabina.

Thus, when he goes to purchase his tickets, he has to wait ten or fifteen minutes to purchase one ticket even though he was the only person at the ticket office, one bright morning. That morning, the three ticket officers — all polite and well-meaning — simply wouldn't get the computer to spit out the ticket he purchased.

Technology rules

Eventually, an astute officer goes to another computer, and eh, voila!, the fancy tickets arrive. In this period of waiting, another customer comes and then storms off in impatience. He doesn't love cricket as much as Odolphus. But Odolphus is only able to purchase one ticket that morning, for he didn't know that the George Headley Stand tickets could be so expensive (the fancy advertisements had made no reference to ticket prices).

By the time Odolphus returns for additional tickets, three days later, the ticket scene has changed. There are now over twenty people waiting in line; there are all grumbling cause technological slowness still prevails. Oh ticket purchase seems to take an eternity where do you want to sit, the agent asks politely, and then click, wait, click, as he dies his computer screen. For heaven's sake, why not just have tickets pre-printed and sold to passengers? And there is more. Odolphus notices that tickets for the George Headley Stand are specific to individual seats. He predicts right away that this will work during the match. So said and done: on the first morning of the match, most people seem to ignore the ticket allocation system completely. In one instance, however, it prompts acrimony, for an

attentive patron insists on taking a rightful seat. Cuss, cuss, send for security guard and so on: do the Sabina authorities need a sociologist to help them through the realities of Jamaican culture? So Odolphus "holds" a seat and anticipates an enthralling day of cricket. He enjoys the moments on the field, and even draws inspiration from the magnificence of the Blue Mounts presiding in the background.

Fried chicken

But, though the sights are impressive, the smell is not. Odolphus is sitting in a row behind the flower's end in which water has settled. He notices that this type of settlement is commonplace in the George Headley Stand. He finds it discomforting and peculiar: there is there scummed water in a covered stand which has no obvious point of entry for the flow of water — this, too, during a time of drought? And, as he watches the dogged partnership between Goodwin and Flower, Odolphus reflects on other peculiarities at his beloved Sabina.

Over so, is the Members' Stand: no women allowed there. Further on, the Air Jamaica Stand: men and women allowed, but who designed that place? In England, uncovered stands are quite appropriate, for the sun hardly penetrates the grey overhang of clouds over cricket's mother country. Remember, however, that the sun hardly sets in the former British Empire: so, occupants of the Air Jamaica Stand can keep their fried chicken hot simply by leaving it unattended on one of the broiling seats in the North West corner of Sabina.

Then, suddenly, Goodwin runs himself out, and the Rose overcomes the Flower: all West Indians rise in ecstasy. Who can complain about ahistorical media houses, insensitive ticketing arrangements, smelly stands, gender discrimination, and sunstroke conditions, when, the cricket so sweet?

Odolphus can, I suppose: for him, Sabina is a beautiful girlfriend who often forgets to clean her toenails. He loves her dearly, but he knows too that she needs a pedicure.

□ Stephen Vasciannie, an attorney-at-law, teaches at the University of the West Indies.

ce to inspire hope

astrously country a which to the mis- upon ittle of s fallen re hope. t mani- realisa- is much han the around ur exist- lief that nificant improve- quality of life. national deficiencies are amere speculation, ad in viable poli- mmes which will- nece. For where despair abounds, le result is a life d hopelessness. d within a context read pessimism omit one's the future. Well, relief the reali- tomorrow if we



WEBSTER EDWARDS

are going to experience a creative and meaningful existence. There must be the feeling that the hardships endured and the sacrifices made are connected to some noble purpose and will insure to one's benefit in the long run. That jobs can be created, crime brought to a tolerable level, affordable housing constructed, and that idyllic national deficiencies are ameliorated.

Hope is the sentiment that has kept citizens of this country plodding through the darkest days, even in the objective situation pointing to one of hopelessness. It is, essentially, a refusal to accept that this country is in an impoverished state, that the better days are really behind us, and that what lies ahead is constant grief. In looking therefore to the future, one must be firm in the conviction that life must consist

of something far more meaningful than the experiences of frustrations which have been encountered with each passing day. It is basically a determination to transcend the reality of the present and create a future that is purposeful.

One can blame our citizens for the inner city for looking expectantly for the dawning of this new day, firm in the affirmation that "better must come". The expectations are high as they have been told that poverty can be alleviated, that communities can be rejuvenated, and that people can live meaningfully. Will this budgetary exercise unfold policies that will make this dream a reality? One looks to see just how this matter will be played out over the coming weeks as this might be the last occasion presented to the Patterson administration to really move this country forward.

□ Dr. Webster Edwards works in the inner city and is Executive Director of Operation Friendship.

Youth at risk

IN A recent column I shared some thoughts on the subject of women at risk, referring at the same time to the oft-repeated theme of men at risk.

There is however a sociological time bomb waiting to explode — it is, of course, youth at risk. Over the past few weeks I have been privileged to share in the visit of a team from Washington, who are doing a review of a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) project entitled the Adolescent Uplifting Project (UAP). Many of us are unaware of the excellent work being funded by USAID among our young people who are at risk.

The project is helping to fund fifteen Non Government Agencies (NGOs) all over the island. These are: ASHE Caribbean Performing Arts, Children First, Jamaica Association for the Deaf, Jamaica Family Planning Association, Jamaica Red Cross, Kingston Restoration Company, Mel Nathan Institute, Rural Family Support Organisation, Sam Sharpe Teachers College, St. Patrick's Foundation, Western Society for the Uplifting of Children, Women's Centre, Jamaica Foundation, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association and Youth Opportunities Unlimited.

The diversity of the organisations is apparent from a look at the list. The groups operate in many of the parishes; the programmes are often quite different and may be geared to different age groups. There is however a common thread running through all the programmes. It is essentially a rescue operation for kids doing poorly at school, or who may even be the troublemakers on street corners. Some of the programmes are held during regular school hours and can be regarded as a school which is parallel to the normal school. Others are held after school hours and use the facilities of an educational institution.

The programme often includes remedial English, Mathematics and Spelling, as well as family life education and vocational skills such as bee-keeping and carpentry.

What has been the impact of this programme on the children at risk? Thousands of children have been reached over the three and a half years of the project and saved from a potentially dangerous future. They are learning life skills: what it means to be a good boy or girl, how to approach life differently and to face up to the challenge of obedience. Many are able to return to the regular school system with their new and improved skills. Yet on careful inquiry it is obvious that the programme is only touching the tip of the "at-risk iceberg".

Sarah Newland, the executive director of the YMCA, tells of the success of the programme in reaching some of these boys at risk. Some of them are part of a

breakfast programme and later on in the day can be seen hustling on the street.

I recall a bright little girl, Shamara, in the Kingston Red Cross Centre on Arnold Road pointing to Joan McDonald, the manager of the Centre, saying, "She rescued me". Joan, a former Miss Jamaica 1978, has entered the battle to salvage young lives and sees this as a spiritual mission.

The Kingston Restoration Company (KRC) programme in High Holborn Street represents a bridgehead or toehold next to a volatile inner-city community. Many of the children in that centre have advanced in several reading grade levels within a period of months rather than years. This school, they say, is different. Teaching there is not

easy. Drug dealers and thugs sometimes enter the school and have to be evicted by the police.

The Family Planning Association in St. Ann's Bay has had a long tradition of working with the young and the old in promoting education in human sexuality. Mrs. Florence George took us to a small and poor community in Windsor near St. Ann's Bay. There we met young mothers and

teenagers at risk. How do you help a young woman who already has seven children for four different fathers? Fortunately, there is counselling and help to face the enormous difficulties ahead. But this is by no means an unusual type of situation in Jamaica.

Mrs. Pious, the director at Children First on Monk Street in Spanish Town, spoke of students who have been rescued by the programme and are now enrolled in tertiary college and university programmes.

Betty Ann Blaine is the enthusiastic Executive Director of Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU). She described the success of mentoring programmes, the introduction of structured homework times and the teaching of conflict resolution as being a part of the work and the mission of YOU.

The Mel Nathan Institute has been building on the early initiative of its founding Minister the Rev. Maitland Evans. The children in the programme have been given hope, and there has been increased interaction with the community.

I have given only a few examples of the kinds of activities taking place in these NGOs. These centres are like mini-oases for the children and represent the focal points of the rescue operations. In these areas the project is living up to its name of uplifting our youth. It was an eye-opener for me. USAID Director Dr. Mosina Jordan has been very positive about the programme. She has recognised its value and is anxious to see some continuation when the current project ends.

□ A.W. Sangster is former President of the University of Technology.

POINT OF VIEW



A.W. SANGSTER

St. Ann gets women's centre

THE ST. Ann's Bay Women's Centre in St. Ann was formally handed over to the community last Friday by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF).

The centre plays an important role in St. Ann's Bay and surrounding communities by re-integrating adolescent mothers into the formal education system

following the birth of their babies.

It was rehabilitated and expanded at a cost of \$5.762 million dollars under JSIF's Economic Infrastructure Programme. The new centre will provide day care and counselling services, remedial classes and skills training for teenaged mothers and the fathers of their babies.

Managing Director of JSIF

Scarlette Gillings said the work on the centre goes to the core of JSIF, which is to help groups in needy communities.

Recently a \$1.89 million contract was signed for the expansion of the Kingston Women's Centre on Trafalgar Road, St. Andrew, and yesterday the Junction Women's Centre in St. Elizabeth was due to be handed over to the community.



Contributed
Speaker of the House of Representatives Violet Neilson (centre) cuts the ribbon to officially open the St. Ann's Bay Women's Centre in Seville, St. Ann, while Scarlette Gillings (left), Managing Director of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) and Gerthlyn Holman, Board Chairman of the Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation, look on. (Story on Page B5). ■

SENIOR Life

ELOISE LEWIS -

'Challenges drive her to preserve'

By Hartley Neita
Contributor

COLONEL'S RIDGE in upper Clarendon is an important community, constantly growing in importance and now enjoying all the basic facilities of modern living. Thinking back 83 years, it was a village of farming families who grew bananas, yam, coffee, cocoa, citrus, vegetables, and other crops in the fertile soil. It is still a farming community today. It rains frequently and the climate is cool during the summer months and chilly during winter.

It was there that Eloise Phillips was born, the daughter of a Presbyterian Minister, 83 years come July.

She attended the Elementary School in the village. Her next step upwards to another level of education was at St. Andrew High School in St. Andrew.

"I was not really inclined towards sports, but the Headmistress, Mrs. Margaret Gartshore, required her girls to become involved in at least one. I chose hockey and was the goalkeeper. And I was the star of a key match against St. Hilda's when I scored the critical goal, and we won," she remembers with a reflective smile.

She wanted to be a teacher from an early age, and was groomed for this profession at Shortwood Training College where she obtained distinctions in teaching, in theory and practice. After she graduated she went to Rock River in upper Clarendon where she taught for 11 years.

From there she went to Old Harbour in St.

Catherine. There she met her late husband of many years, C.T. Lewis, teacher and 4-H club administrator.

In mid-1951 she joined the staff of the Kingston Senior School. This was for a brief assessment, but before she could begin teaching in September, Jamaica was hit by Hurricane Charlie. The school became a centre for the homeless for about two months.

She taught there for the rest of the term and for the first month of 1952 she was released to take up an invitation to teach at Excelsior School. She spent eleven years there.

Through a Scholarship she went to the University of the West Indies where she obtained her Bachelor's degree in two years and then did the Diploma in Education in the third. Later, she obtained a Fellowship and obtained her Ph.D at the University of Toronto. She then taught at the University of the West Indies in the School of Education for 17 years, retiring in 1982.

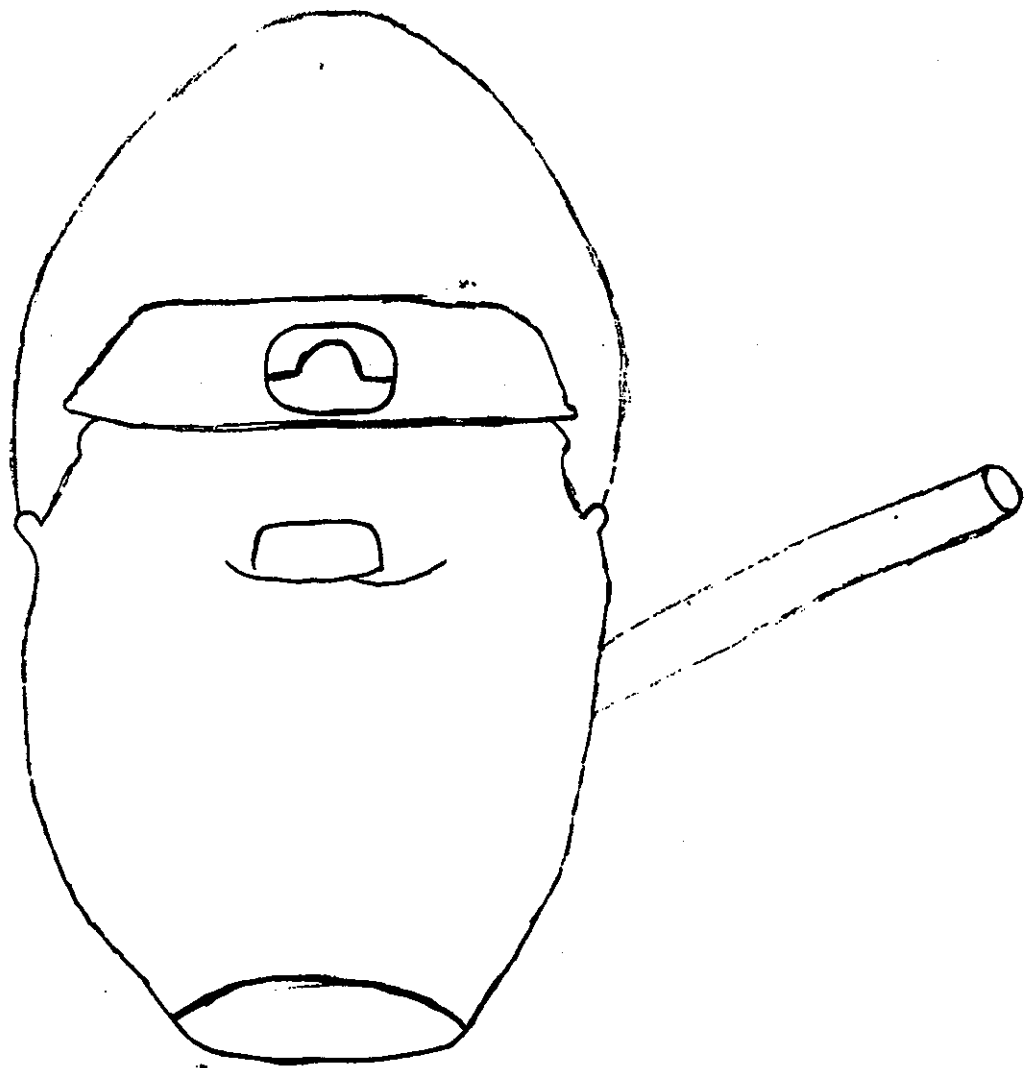
An invitation to do a short teaching stint at Excelsior led to doing so for ten years. She finally ended full-time teaching, after 60 years, in 1997. She is still as active as ever. She is a former president of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). She is now involved in the Uplifting Adolescents programme of the Y which seeks to help teen age boys and girls who have not succeeded at the primary level by providing them with remedial education.

"It's very stressful," she admits. But it is a challenge which drives her to preserve. She is also the temporary Choir Director at the Church of Ascension in Mona Heights, near her home.

Her garden is "a thing of beauty and a joy to behold". Reds, pinks, whites, yellows, and all the other colours of the rainbow, bloom in her garden. She wakes many a morning to find that thieves have invaded the garden and stolen Rosés. Orchids. Poinsettias. Hibiscus. Ferns.

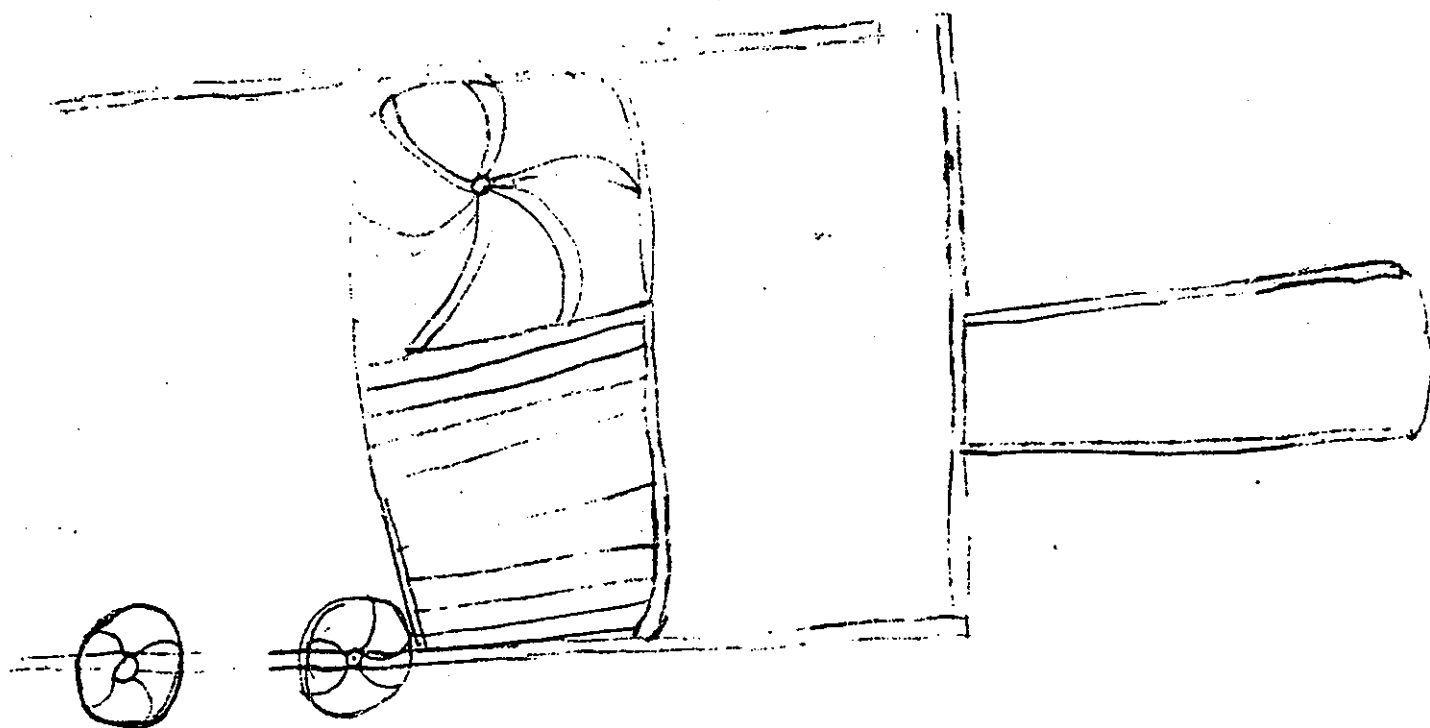


Remar Williams



This is a monkey jar.
It was used for keeping drinking water
It kept the water very cool.

RFSO



This is the hearse
that was used in the
18th to 19th century.
It was drawn by a
horse.

RFSO



Omar Nicolas doing the work of a horse, donkey or mule, to turn the 'bout' thereby crushing sugar cane between the rollers in the centre.

RFSO



With interest, having overcome fear,
these clients take a closer view of
tombs on the floor of the Spanish
Town cathedral.

RFSO



— Contributed

Natreecha Harris (left), a student at Children's First, gives a haircut to another student while Portia Simpson Miller (right), Tourism and Sports Minister, and Marva McKenzie, cosmetology instructor, look on. The Minister visited the group on Tuesday in Spanish Town, St. Catherine. ■



— Contributed

Catherine Knight (left), President of the Parent Teachers' Association for Youth Education Support Systems (YESS), talks to Maxine Whittingham and Donnette Edwards of Air Jamaica, while Morin Seymour, Executive Director looks on. The occasion was the recent handing over of a cheque donated by Air Jamaica toward the Environmental Lab at Kingston Restoration Company's Higholborn Street complex. ■

Less than a tenth of street children helped by agencies

BY NICOLA RAMANAND
Observer staff reporter

FEWER than a tenth of the children who live and work on Jamaican streets benefit from any relief from the harsh street life, such as offered by voluntary agencies who work with this vulnerable group.

Checks with the handful of agencies who intervene to relieve difficulties faced by street kids across the island show that fewer than 1,000 of the estimated 10,000 street children are enrolled in any of their programmes. Government currently has no programme to help these unfortunate children and has no timetable to set one up.

Those in programmes may be assured of at least one meal a day, somewhere to sleep a night, a daily shower and classes in remedial maths and English. But the agencies say they are deeply concerned about the remaining 9,000 or so children, mostly boys, who never enter a programme and grow to manhood without any intervention to ease their anger at society and divert them from an almost sure life of crime.

Alva McKenzie, a counsellor with the National Initiative for Street Children (NISC), which up till recently cared for 30 boys in Kingston, says the children welcomed the meal, but it is really hope that they craved.

"They want to know what life holds for them ... whether street life is all they have to look forward to," she said.

Part of the NISC programme was exposure to reading and maths. For McKenzie it was amazing to see their responses.

"You think they need shelter and food, but that's not it," she said. "They will refuse food to read. Some of them don't want any help with their living situations. They want to learn to read and write."

McKenzie says when they are exposed to reading and mathematics and start to see improvement, they blossom. She says the boys were responding positively to the classes, coming early and staying on well after.

"They were very into it. They would come from well before nine and stay until five sometimes, even though the programme is from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. I couldn't get any work done in my office. And they weren't here idling. They were here craving for homework."

To McKenzie and other counsellors, the intervention of the agencies make a world of difference for the boys. The proof is in the sea change in their outlook especially when they are brought in early enough.

McKenzie used artistic expression as one of her counselling tools, urging the boys to draw their lives in the past, present and future.

"For the then drawings we see a lot of guns, roadblocks, a man going down into the roof of a house ... all sorts of things," she said.

"Now they draw themselves in a classroom reading. In their drawing of the future we see truck drivers, chefs, even a few teachers."

Dovette Jones, the administrative assistant for the LEAP Centre, downtown Kingston said the children change drastically, especially after early exposure to the programme, moving from hostile to hopeful in a short time.

"We get some who are very angry and most of them have low self-esteem," Jones said, "but after counselling and motivational talks they change. They start to see themselves as someone worthwhile. It helps them to see that they are as good as anybody else, no matter what their situation"

The LEAP centre offers vocational training and basic literacy classes to 170 children. It has small residential facility which accommodates 20 children and provides them with meals, clothing and medical attention for the two-year duration of the programme.

At the Western Society for the Upliftment of Children in Montego Bay, there has not been a fight among the children since the beginning of the new term in January.

For the counsellors this is a major achievement. "If you came here in September, you would not be able to hear me, the children were so loud," says Glenda Drummond, administrator. "The noise and the bad words ... they were just raw, very raw," she said.

Because of that in the first term, Drummond and her counsellors concentrate heavily on conflict resolution.

"We had a fight nearly every day with knives and other kinds of harmful weapons ... at first it was just noise and chaos. But now they have really settled down and they have started to work."



Richard Wallace, one of an estimated 10,000 Jamaican children forced to make their living on the streets.

(Photo: Joseph Wellings)

Many of the agencies struggle for funding and almost all are pressed for space.

The NISC programme had to be temporarily suspended, as they no longer have a headquarters.

"We were on the YMCA compound," explains McKenzie, "but it's difficult to operate two programmes in a small space, especially when you are dealing with short-fused boys."

Fights and other disruptive behaviour from their boys led to them being asked to give up the classroom in which they held their remedial math and English sessions and vocational training. The programme was relocated to the LEAP Centre on Duke Street, Downtown, but the boys who are mostly based in Half-Way-Tree and New Kingston find it difficult to travel the distance.

"This is such a blow to our system," laments McKenzie. "The boys have stopped going. And they have been disappointed so much already. It's going to be very difficult to win back their confidence."

She is appealing to anyone who has a suitable available space to assist them, as the programme needs to be restarted urgently. "We really need somewhere. If there is anyone out there who has somewhere to lease, possibly on neutral ground at a reasonable rate, please contact us."

LEAP has also outgrown its Duke Street facilities. There are currently 170 children enrolled in LEAP, 20 more than the capacity. "We have to be referring children to other agencies, because we don't want to water down the programme," says Edwards. The residential section only accommodates 20 persons, but there is a great demand for this facility. We definitely need more space.

"We are trying to get some land across the street. But until that

happens, that is all we can accommodate on campus."

"The children we work with really turn around in terms of behaviour," remarks Drummond. "A number of them have re put their lives together. You would be surprised to know that once harsh, devil-headed child can become so soft and really find their place in society."

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- Junior Dowie

Mrs. Rosemarie Ganley (right), cuts a tape to formally open a gazebo-type classroom in Kingston on Monday. Others (from right) are Mrs. Roxiline Morrison-Spence, executive director of the St. Patrick Foundation, Mr. John Ganley, Miss Florence Manning, manager of the centre, and Mr. John Mackle, president of Jamaica Self-help, Canada. In the background (partly hidden) is Mr. Arthur Richards also of the centre. ■

YOU to discuss mentoring in the US

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES Unlimited (YOU), a full-time mentoring organisation for youth in Jamaica, has been selected to present a paper at the 13th annual "Diversity in Mentoring Conference" of the International Mentoring Association (IMA) scheduled for the end of next month in New Orleans, United States.

YOU founder and Executive

Director Betty Ann Blaine will lead a team which will focus on the special challenges and successes of mentoring young people in the developing world.

Mrs. Blaine and Sheila Nicholson, YOU's senior projects officer, are scheduled to make a joint presentation entitled "Mentoring in the Caribbean: A Jamaican Perspective".

They are expected to highlight the needs of youngsters, the social support structures

available to mentors, and the strategies relevant to sustaining and enriching a mentoring programme.

They will also provide an illustrated description of one-to-one mentoring, group mentoring and other support programmes provided by YOU, in which more than 900 Jamaican adolescents are currently enrolled.

Youth needs

"In addition to focussing on the international aspect of mentoring," Mrs. Blaine explained, "we are aiming to spotlight the special needs of young people and those dedicated to supporting them in the developing world..."

The programmes operated by YOU are designed to help students to complete their post-primary education and move on to higher education, employment, or skills training. The overall YOU programme is operated in 10 schools in the Corporate Area and Portmore, St. Catherine. It also includes a business education programme, featuring the annual "Workplace Shadow Week", a summer enrichment programme, adolescent workshops focussing on issues such as family life and self-esteem, and supervised homework centres.

YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF WHO THE LEADERS IN THE MARKET ARE...

The last National Print Media Survey, not commissioned by an individual media house, had these readership results:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------|
| * The Sunday Gleaner | = | 454,000 |
| * The Star | = | 425,000 |
| * The Daily Gleaner | = | 409,000 |
| * The Financial Gleaner | = | 401,000 |
| * The Weekend Star | = | 391,000 |
| * The Sunday Observer | = | 237,000 |
| * The Daily Observer | = | 219,000 |

Source: Market Research Services Ltd.
May 1999 Print Media Survey

The Gleaner

JAMAICA MENTORING ORGANISATION TO PRESENT PAPER AT INTERNATIONAL FORUM

Jamaica's only full-time mentoring organisation, the nine-year-old Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) has been selected to present a paper at the 13th annual 'Diversity in Mentoring Conference' of the International Association in Mentoring (IMA). This will take place in New Orleans from March 30 to April 1 this year. The YOU team, which will be led by founder and executive Director Betty Ann Blaine, will focus on the special challenges and successes of mentoring young people in the developing world.

American Airlines will be providing the airline tickets for Mrs. Blaine and two other senior staff members of the mentoring organisation to travel to New Orleans to attend the conference, which will focus on the theme: "Mentoring for the Millennium". YOU's representation at the New Orleans conference is also being supported by USAID and Peoples Action for Community Transformation (PACT).

Mrs Blaine and Mrs Sheila Nicholson, YOU's Senior Projects Officer, will deliver a joined presentation entitled "Mentoring in the Caribbean: A Jamaican Perspective". The one hour session will include a ten minute video on the programmes operated by the Youth Opportunities Unlimited, and verbal presentations by both representatives.

These will focus on innovative strategies used by the organisation to enhance mentoring relationships and enrich the lives of both mentors and 'mentees'. The Jamaican speakers will highlight the needs of the youngsters, the social support structures available to mentors, and the strategies relevant to sustaining and enriching a mentoring programme. They will also provide an illustrated description of the one-to-one mentoring, group mentoring and other support programmes provided by YOU, in which over 900 Jamaican adolescents are currently enrolled, and which in their wider outreach are improving the lives of an estimated half a million youngsters.

"In addition to focusing on the international aspect of mentoring," Mrs. Blaine explains, "we are aiming to spotlight the special needs of young people and those dedicated to supporting them in the developing world, and also to stimulate networking among IMA members and visitors from the Caribbean. YOU is particularly interested in sharing and collaborating in mentoring from a regional perspective."

The International Mentoring Association, housed at the Western Michigan University in the United States, was established in 1988 in response to the growing need for an organised forum focusing on innovative mentoring ideas and practices. Now a worldwide organisation, it unites a broad cross section of individuals interested in the theory and practice of effective mentoring. It encourages



American Airlines to fly Mentoring team to world conference: Mrs Lorna Jumpp (right) Customer Service Representative of American Airlines, presents three complimentary airline tickets to Mrs. Betty Ann Blaine, Executive Director of Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU).

membership from mentoring programme coordinators, mentors/protégés, and individuals and organisations representing: all levels of education systems, health and human services, community based organisations, government agencies, non-profit groups and business.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited has been a member of the IMA since it was launched in 1991, and was represented at the IMA's annual Conference for the first time last year, when two senior staffers attended the event in Atlanta, Georgia in April, with Air Jamaica providing air transportation.

The programme operated by Youth Opportunities Unlimited are designed to help students to complete their post primary education, and move on to higher education, employment, or skills training. The organisation has been achieving these objectives through a very successful core programme of one-to-one mentoring, as well as a network of related support programmes. These include education in Drug Abuse, Anger Management, Reproductive Health and Environmental Issues.

The overall YOU Programme, now operated in 10 schools in the Corporate Area and Portmore, also includes an innovative Business Education Programme featuring the

annual Workplace Shadow Week, a Summer Enrichment Programme, Adolescent Workshops focusing on issues such as family life and self-esteem, and supervised Homework Centres.

Despite being operated by a small team of eight, the YOU programmes have been so well received that in 1997, the organisation established a Consultancy Programme to train other community groups to set up their own mentoring projects. A total of 16 alumni groups, service clubs, church and outreach groups and other community organisations have been trained under the Consultancy Programme, and most of them have already started mentoring youngsters in their communities.

Another positive milestone for this dynamic voluntary organisation came in 1999, when the Government commissioned YOU to design and pilot group mentoring programmes in three residential institutions for children in Kingston and St. Andrew. These are the Musgrave Girls Home, the Homestead Place of Safety and the Glenhope Place of Safety. YOU also operates a Parenting Education Programme, and carries out public education and advocacy at the national level, focusing on issues affecting adolescents.

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